



**Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts**  
with assistance from the Gulbenkian Foundation

**Presents**

# The BENTOVIM Ensemble

**Friday 4th June**  
**7 30 pm**

Central Library  
Burnley

**Thursday 10th June**  
**7 30 pm**

Witton Park School  
Blackburn

Tickets 70p

Students/Children/  
OAP's 30p

Tel. Burnley 29513/21986

#### THE BENTOVIM ENSEMBLE

Atarah Ben-Tovim	flute
Colin Kitching	viola
Dietrich Bethge	'cello
John Harper	guitars
Paul Mitchell-Davidson	bass guitar

#### **Atarah Ben-Tovim**

is perhaps best known within the MPAA area for her popular concerts for children and families as well as for the successful lunchtime series of concerts that she has launched. But before this she made a considerable reputation as a soloist, while based with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra as Principal Flute. Her conviction that music of all kinds has an important part to play in our lives, has not only led to the formation of the Ensemble, but to her many appearances on radio and television.

#### **Colin Kitching**

studied at Dusseldorf, Indiana University and the Royal College of Music. He has been Principal Viola with Scottish Opera, the London String Players and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and during his period in Liverpool played most of the viola concertos in the repertoire. Coming from a musical family, Colin Kitching has also established his reputation as a chamber musician with the Reid Quartet.

#### **Dietrich Bethge**

studied 'cello with Joan Dickson, having gone to the Royal College of Music after Oxford University. He spent a period as co-principal of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and recently returned from a European tour with the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra.

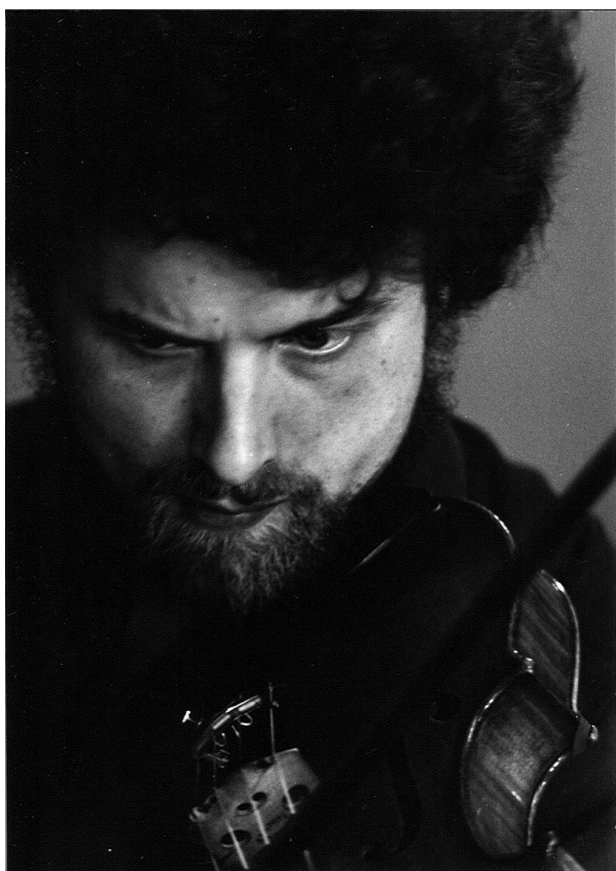
#### **John Harper**

is not only a guitarist, playing classical and electric guitars, but also a composer and arranger. He comes from Liverpool, playing often with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, including the premier of his own guitar concerto.

#### **Paul Mitchell-Davidson**

like his fellow guitarist, is both a composer and arranger as well as an accomplished soloist. He has played with jazz ensembles, dance bands, and almost every possible musical combination; recently he played the Penderecki Concerto with the Scottish National Orchestra.

The programme for the first two concerts will be a varied one. The Ensemble will include works by Bach, Schubert and Ravel from the more traditional repertoire. However, there will be works from two members of the Ensemble, John Harper and Paul Mitchell-Davidson, who have composed pieces specially for this unique combination of instruments.

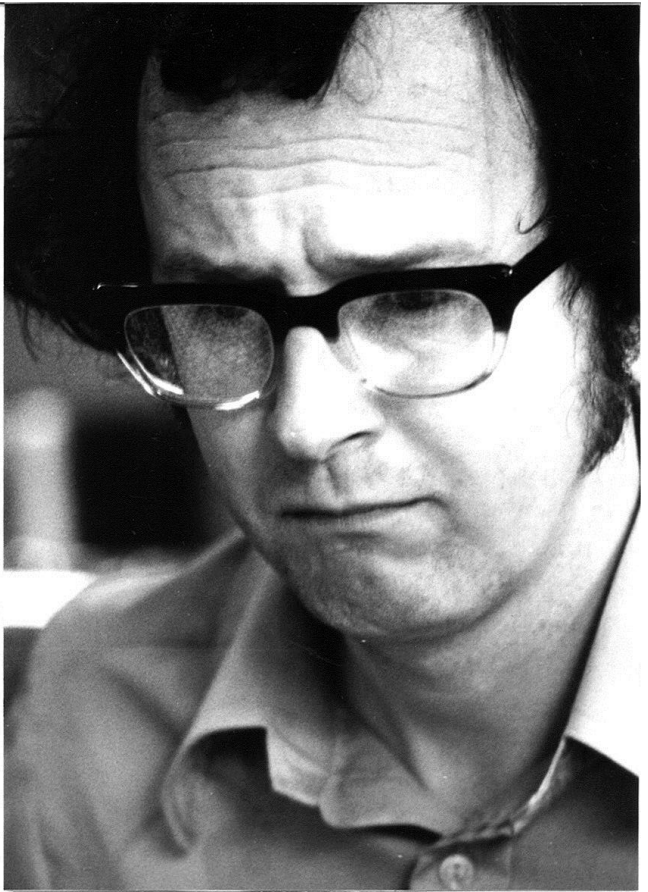


COLIN KITCHING (viola)

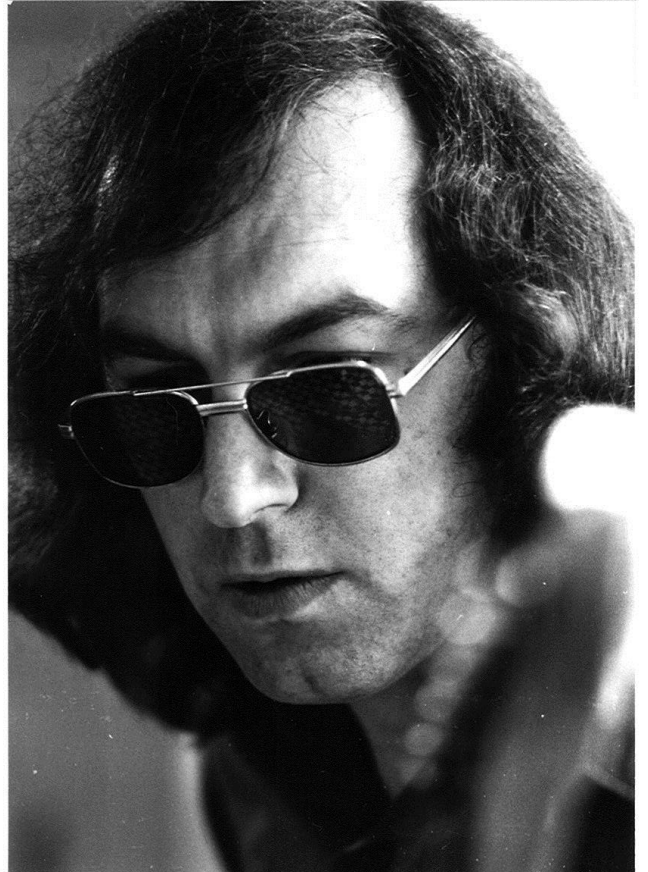


DIETRICH BETHGE (cello)

JOHN HARPER (guitars)



PAUL MITCHELL-DAVIDSON  
(electric bass)





The Ensemble rehearsing in the Music Room at Atarah's  
home in Rossendale





ATARAH BEN-TOVIM (flute)

In 1975, Atarah Ben-Tovim accepted the part-time post as First Music Fellow of the Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts.

She had been for twelve years the Principal Flautist of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and is a soloist of international standing.

In moving to the mid-Pennine area, she accepted the challenge of a part of Britain almost devoid of professional musical life and deprived of orchestra, music college or resident professional ensemble.

From the beginning, Miss Ben-Tovim agreed with the Director of MPAA that arranging and presenting musical events was not enough, but that the area needed a core of musicianship which could only be provided by the formation of an ensemble to be based in the area and which must be both adventurous and stimulating to people at all stages of musical development.

Miss Ben-Tovim's selection of musicians and instruments for the Bentovim Ensemble brought into being a unique fusion of classical and electrical instruments capable of the subtlety of a string quartet and the energy and excitement of a jazz/rock band.

The generous and highly appreciated grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation has enabled the Ensemble to perform a wide variety of music throughout the MPAA area and to give regular courses for professional and amateur musicians of widely-spread ages and standards, at which the informal contact with fine musicians is as important as the formal classes and master classes.





The First Bentovim Day School was held on Sunday 6th June 1976 at Gawthorpe Hall, one of the most beautiful buildings in this part of Britain.

The house was made available by Lancashire County Council and the National Trust. Administration of the Day School was by the MPAA and tuition was given by members of the Ensemble under the personal direction and supervision of Miss Ben-Tovim.



Master classes...





Contact and performance...





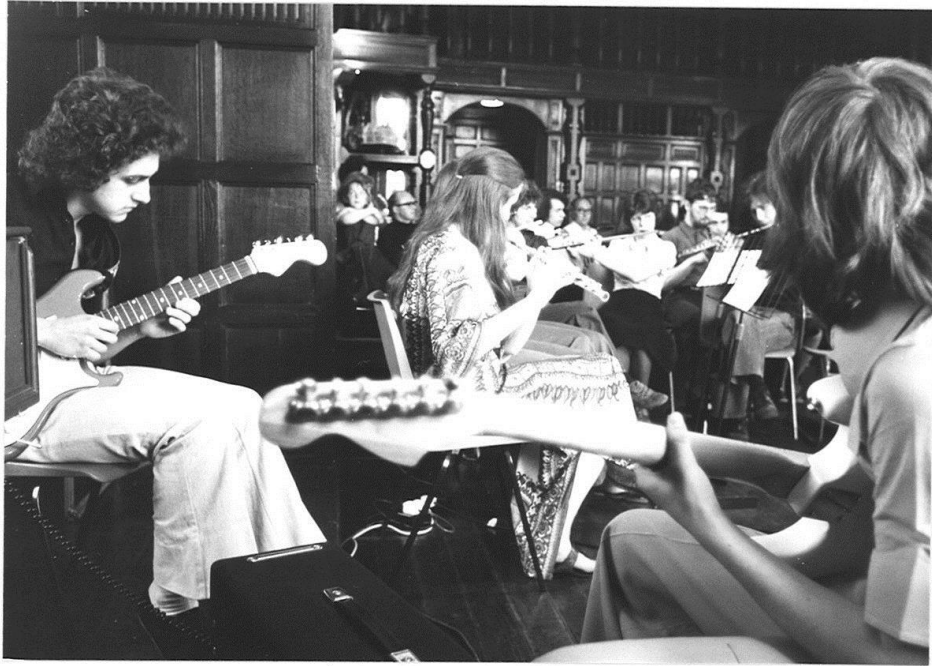
...for advanced, and not-so-advanced!





...encouraging future talent.





An unusual, and important, feature of the Day School...



...was group improvisation.



An important cliché for the children: the group photograph -  
the Ensemble poses with the junior students